

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1008

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION urging Congress to pass HR 808 to create the United States Department of Peace.

WHEREAS, in 1792, Dr. Benjamin Rush, a Founding Father and signer of the Declaration of Independence, along with his peer, Benjamin Banneker, envisioned a Department of Peace to balance the Department of War; and

WHEREAS, Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan have focused on various aspects of the Department of Peace; and

WHEREAS, over one hundred bills have been introduced in Congress since the end of WWII to create a Department of Peace in the federal government; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2007, House Bill 808 (HR 808) was introduced in the United States House of Representatives; this bill, which would create a United States Department of Peace, has since garnered the co-sponsorship of more than sixty-five members of the United States House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, the proposed federal legislation would create a United States Department of Peace and establish a cabinet-level department headed by a Secretary of Peace who would advise the President on issues both domestic and international in scope; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a United States Department of Peace would greatly benefit the citizens of Tennessee, as holding peace as an organizing principle of American society would no doubt affect a positive change in the tone and tenor of society; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a United States Department of Peace would benefit all Americans by promoting the development and distribution to the states and their schools a peace curriculum and supporting materials for building communicative peace skills, nonviolent conflict resolutions skills, and knowledge of peace processes; and

WHEREAS, a United States Department of Peace would encourage and support the development of nonviolent conflict resolution and violence prevention initiatives from within the community, including its religious groups and non-governmental organizations, thereby creating greater community involvement and a strong, stable, and cohesive civil society; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly hereby urges the Congress of the United States to act expeditiously to pass HR 808 to create a United States Department of Peace.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly strongly urges each member of the United States Congress from Tennessee to utilize the full measure of his or her influence to affect the creation of a United States Department of Peace.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation.